Statement

(a) The country is endowed with an economically viable hydro potential assessed at 148700 MW in terms of installed capacity. However, only 16.6% of this potential has been harnessed, 6.3% is under various stages of development and 2.73% has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(b) Hydro power development has been constrained on account of technical problems, geological difficulties and surprises, inaccessibility of sites, delay in land acquisition, environmental considerations, resettlement of project affected families, and law and order problems in militant infested areas.

(c) and (d) Government of India is according high priority for development of hydro-electric projects in the country and has so far tentatively identified hydro-electric projects of 16,291 MW for benefits in the Xth Plan and 22,364 MW for benefits in the XIth Plan. The capacity addition identified for benefits in these Plans would however depend on obtaining statutory clearances, project initiatives and tying-up of necessary funds.

In order to accelerate the process of survey and investigation of the new hydro-electric sites and to create a shelf of feasible projects which could be taken up for execution, the CEA has brought out a Report on Preliminary Ranking Study of about 400 hydro schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of about 1,07,000 MW which were identified but are yet to be developed. This study would enable potential hydro developers to take up detailed survey and investigation, cost estimates and tentative tariff for the most attractive and viable schemes in each basin in a phased manner. The Government is exploring various possibilities of funding and executing hydro-electric projects after extensive consultations with the States, financial institutions and entrepreneurs. An International Conference on non-fossil fuel Generation has been scheduled in February, 2002.

Shortfall of power supply in Andhra Pradesh

*222. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Central Electricity Authority, Andhra Pradesh, faced 20 per cent shortfall of power supply, the third highest in India; and

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested that Central Government to release more power for Andhra Pradesh so that the demands of the State farmers and other consumers are fully met?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During the period April-October, 2001, Andhra Pradesh had an energy shortage and peak deficit of 9.3% and 17.6% respectively. The State experienced the third highest peaking shortage during the period April-October, 2001.

At the request of the State Government, allocation from the unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations was increased from 40% to 54% and allocation of 33 MW from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit No. 4 was made in favour of Andhra Pradesh upto 30th September, 2001. Andhra Pradesh also receives 200—210 MW of power from NTPC stations in the Eastern Region over the Gazuwaka HVDC link and another 150—160 MW from Orissa over Upper Sileru-Balimela 220 KV link under bilateral agreement. However, in October, 2001 power supply position in Andhra Pradesh improved due to good rainfall which led to higher hydel generation and fall in demand. In veiw of this, the State has not drawn its entitled power in full from Orissa as well as Central Sector Stations during October and November, 2001.

Providing a Single window clearance for Hydro-electric Projects

*223. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to provide a single window clearance for hydro-electric projects;

(b) whether this will help in expeditious execution of projects; and

(c) the number of projects which have been cleared and are likely to be cleared under this system?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) It has not been found possible to have a single window clearance for hydro-electric projects in view of the involvement of several statutory and State agencies in clearance of such projects. Hydro projects impacting more than one State require consultation with the concerned States. However, the Government have streamlined the procedure of according clearances within the agencies of Government of India and have also set up a Crisis Resolution